Employment Guarantee Board for Agricultural workers

*354. DR. D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering setting up of Employment Guarantee Board, exclusively, for the agricultural workers; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) One of the provisions under consideration of the proposed legislation for agricultural workers is to provide for a tripartite Employment Guarantee Board to promote off season employment. A final decision will be taken in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments soon.

Inclusion of sub-Castes of Kurumans in the List of STs

*355. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the sub-castes Kuruman, Kurumban, Kurumba and Kurumbar to main caste Kurumans are not included in the list of Schedule Tribe in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Government are aware that since these sub-castes are not included in Groups of Kurumans, Revenue authorities are not issuing the ST certificate;

(c) whether Government are aware of the recommendations of Tamil Nadu Government in its Letter No. 1406 Social Welfare dated 29th December, 1978, and the letter No. 12016/17/81 SCD (R. Cell) dated 17th August, 1994, written by Central Government to State Government of Tamil Nadu; and

(d) whether Government will take steps to group all main and sub-castes referred to in part (a) as one group?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Kuruman, Kurumban, Kurumba and Kurumbar have not been specified as sub-castes of Kurumans in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Tamil Nadu. However, Kurumbas has been specified as a separate entry in the Scheduled Tribes list in relation to the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposal is under consideration of the Government.

National Renewal Fund in Gujarat

*356. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of funds under National Renewal Fund spent in Gujarat State in 1995-96;

(b) the details of such programmes implemented in 1995-96 in the State; and

(c) the proposal for 1996-97 in the State to be implemented under National Renewal Fund?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) According to the provisional figures available for the year 1995-96, a sum of Rs. 209.58 crores was released for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in the Central Public Sector Undertakings, including those located in the State of Gujarat, and a sum of Rs. 1.46 crore was released for Counselling, Retraining and Redeployment assistance to the rationalised workers in the State. These two programmes of Voluntary Retirement Scheme and Counselling, Retraining and Redeployment assistance to the rationalised workers will continue in the year 1996-97.

Child Labour in Glass Bangle Industry in Firozabad

*357. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state: